



For a better response to the issues of conservation and sustainable management of this outstanding natural heritage, French government has chosen, through the **National Strategy for Biodiversity**, to work in partnership with the Communities in order to develop **action plans** that define priority measures in favour of biodiversity in each overseas area. Hence, concrete actions based on four main lines are gradually being implemented:

The conservation of species and ecosystems

- The implementation of conservation plans for species (Turtles, Kagus, Dugongs, etc.)
- The regulation of the national and international trade of listed species
- The creation and management of new terrestrial and marine protected areas
- The creation of conservatories for natural spaces

Involvement of all stakeholders

- Awareness raising of all stakeholders
- Participatory management that includes NGOs and local communities

The integration of biodiversity into sectoral policies

- The integration of biodiversity into all development programmes (urban planning, economy, transport, agriculture, etc.)
- The reinforcement of international cooperation with neighbouring territories

Knowledge and science

- The enhancement of on-site scientific research
- The creation of biodiversity observatories with indicators to measure changes in biodiversity and evaluate policies.



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<http://www.developpement-durable.gouv.fr/-Strategie-nationale-pour-la-.html>



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French Overseas Biodiversity

an outstanding wealth to protect





The French Overseas areas (Ultrapерipheral regions as well as self-governed territories) cover a very diverse array of ecological situations. They are located :

- in the two hemispheres,
- in three oceans: the Atlantic, the Pacific and the Indian oceans,
- in bioclimatic regions of great contrast: from Subarctic to Antarctic zones, through tropical and equatorial zones, etc.

France holds a unique position in the world in terms of biodiversity thanks to the natural wealth of these bio-diverse areas.

An outstanding yet fragile biodiversity

The variety of ecosystems and the total number of species, including endemic species, i.e. found in these regions only, are very high. Moreover, an extended Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) covers a wide range of marine environments. 10% of the world's coral reefs are located in French waters.

Endemic species	Number of overseas endemic species	Richness compared with metropolitan France
vascular plants	3,500	26 times more
molluscs	650	3.5 times more
Fresh water fish	250	100 times more
reptiles	80	80 versus none
birds	60	60 times more
mammals	10	10 versus none

A few examples...

The flora and fauna of New Caledonia (similar in size to the Picardy region) have a number of endemic species equivalent to that of Continental Europe.

French Guiana is one of the largest tracts of primary rain-forest in the world.

Mayotte has one of the world's rare double barrier reefs. Clipperton and the "Iles Eparses" are illustrations of extreme environments that are uninhabited and very well preserved.

Across French Polynesia, is located one fifth of the planet's atolls.

French natural heritage is recognized worldwide and encompasses 5 of the 25 richest regions in terms of biodiversity ('hotspots'), as well as important eco-regions, endemic zones for birds and areas of plant diversity.



Examples of conservation measures

In order to protect this exceptional heritage, France and her communities are implementing an increasing range of measures:

- 3 national parks: the Guadeloupe National park and 2 others created in 2007: the Guiana Amazonian park and the Reunion Island National park,
- 2 natural regional parks in French Guiana and in Martinique,
- 45 natural reserves created by National Government, Communities or Local Governments, as for example: Grand Cul-de-Sac Marin (Guadeloupe), the Caravelle Peninsula (Martinique), and recently, the Southern Territories, Grand Matoury (French Guiana) , M'bouzi Islet (Mayotte), ... and several reserve projects,
- nearly 10,000 ha of land integrated into the domain of Conservatory of the Coastal Areas and Lakeshore,

- rulings on the protection of numerous species of fauna and flora (turtles, corals, birds, plants, mammals, molluscs etc.)
- the National Botanical Conservatory of Mascarin which promotes knowledge and the preservation of flora,
- the demarcation of 482 Natural Areas of major interest in terms of ecology, flora and fauna (ZNIEFF) in Overseas Departments, illustrated by projects in Mayotte and Saint-Pierre-and-Miquelon.

However, destruction of natural habitats, overexploitation, pollution and alien species threaten this natural heritage. Climate change will most probably worsen their impact on biodiversity in the coming decades.

Environmental authority is different in each overseas area

Overseas Departments (Guadeloupe, Guiana, Martinique, Reunion Island): State authority, through the Regional Division for the environment (DIREN), as in mainland France;

Overseas Communities:

- Mayotte and Saint-Pierre-and-Miquelon: State authority, through the Agriculture and Forestry Division ,
- Saint-Martin: State authority,
- Clipperton: State authority, through the High Commissioner of the Republic in French Polynesia ;
- Terres Australes et Antarctiques Françaises (TAAF), the "Iles Eparses": State authority by the Senior Administrator of the TAAF (based in La Réunion).
- Saint-Bartholomew, French Polynesia, Wallis-and-Futuna and New-Caledonia: State authority, through local authorities.